

Nevada State Health Division Technical Bulletin



Topic:	Use of Tdap vaccine in Emergency Rooms and Urgent Care Centers	Bureau/Program: Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness/ Immunization Program
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To: Emergency Rooms, Urgent Care Centers, Hospital Administrators, HCQC, Nevada Hospital Association		
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Use of Tdap Vaccine Instead of Td in Emergency Rooms and Urgent Care Centers

Hospital emergency rooms and urgent care centers are strongly encouraged to administer the tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine instead of the tetanus and diphtheria (Td) vaccine to teens and adults whenever tetanus is indicated. This recommendation is in response to reducing the incidence of pertussis (whooping cough) in the state of Nevada.

Nationally, pertussis outbreaks are on the rise. One of the largest outbreaks remains ongoing in California, resulting in an epidemic. As a result ten newborns under the age of three months died and over 8,900 cases have been identified. With Nevada sharing a continuous border with California, reducing the ability of pertussis to spread is crucial to protect all our citizens.

Pertussis is typically spread to newborns by adolescents or adults (usually family members). Young infants are especially susceptible due to not having started nor finished their DTaP vaccinations against pertussis.

The Tdap vaccine is the preferred alternative for boosters to prevent incidents of pertussis in adolescents and adults, as well as its transmission to newborns and young children by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) as of October 31, 2010.

Why is there a concern?

- Not all babies are getting the vaccinations needed to protect them
- Protection against pertussis from early childhood vaccination decreases over time, and teens and adults can become infected repeatedly
- Pertussis rates among adults have risen 400% since 1990
- Children, teens, and adults with undiagnosed pertussis can spread the disease to others.

The Tdap vaccine is the only adolescent and adult product available to protect against pertussis. ACIP now recommends Tdap vaccine for individuals seven years and older. Please note that the FDA plans to expand Tdap licenses on Adacel and Boostrix to match ACIP recommendations. Currently Adacel is licensed for 11-64 years of age and Boostrix is licensed for 10-64 years of age. ACIP currently recommends a single dose of Tdap. For all ACIP recommendations on Tdap go to: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm.

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